



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC2141

[REDACTED]  
{By Email}

14 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information on turtle/terrapin imports from North America which we received clarity for on 02 September 2020. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“I'm just interesting in analysing data trends on importation of non-CITES species. So, really I'm just interested in whether I can get data on the number of individuals/permits issued for reptiles and amphibians.

I don't know how you organise this info, or the level of taxonomic detail that you have, though, so I'm a little unsure as to what to ask for or to expect (if that makes any sense?). To begin with, if I could access any data on freshwater turtles and tortoises imported from North America to the UK, this would be an idea start, and then perhaps once I'm more aware of what kind of information is available (or not available), I can give more detail on potentially getting data on other taxa.”

APHA asked for clarity on your request which was received on the 02 Septembrrt 2020 as follows:

“I'm not entirely sure what data is available, but if I were able to obtain data on freshwater turtle/terrapin imports from North America between 2010-present day, that would be ideal. Out of interest, how far back would it be possible to obtain import data like this?”

Non-CITES species of reptile do not require a licence to be imported. You can find the import requirements for reptiles from non-EU countries in Import Information Note BLLV/9 at the following link: <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/bip/iin/bllv-9.pdf>

TRACES (Trade Control and Expert System) is a European Commission system employed by EU member states to facilitate and record animal/animal product

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

movements into and throughout the EU. The data below was extracted from TRACES and covers the number of reptiles of the order Testudines imported from the USA from January 2015 to August 2020. We are not able to provide any data for imports prior to 2015. Testudines is an order of reptiles which comprises the turtles, terrapins, and tortoises. We are not able to break the species down any further than this.

The information that we have provided is a true reflection of the information that we have access to. We can't guarantee the accuracy of this data, as we can only rely on the information that has been input into TRACES by a third party.

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Consignments</b>	<b>Number Of Animals</b>
2015	11	29695
2016	7	21470
2017	14	24227
2018	11	20914
2019	8	11323
2020	3	9410
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>117039</b>

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below. During the current Coronavirus outbreak, our offices will be closed.

Yours sincerely

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM**

Email: [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)

## Annex

### Copyright

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### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk) and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

### Coronavirus

However, following the changes to Government advice, from Tuesday 24 March 2020 the ICO offices will be closed. They will therefore not be able to collect correspondence sent via post. Where possible, they ask that you [contact them online](#) or call on 0303 123 1113